

Testimony Of An Anonymous Parent
In Support of HB 5029, An Act Concerning Sexual Assault And Intimate Partner Violence On Campus
Higher Education And Employment Advancement Committee, February 11, 2014

Good morning members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. As a concerned parent, I am **in support of HB 5029**, An Act Concerning Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence On Campus.

I remember bringing my daughter to day care when she was 3 months old, I worried if she would adjust, would she like the staff, would the staff treat her well, would she connect with the other babies, grow as an individual and be safe. The first day of day care was difficult for me. I called to check on her after being at work one hour and I was only working a half day. I remember that day like it was yesterday and it was 19 years ago. Many big events, both happy and difficult, have taken place in her life since that day from sports activities, to proms, her parents divorcing and preparing to go off to college. College is an exciting milestone. My desire for her college journey took on similar qualities as that first day of day care. I wanted her to adjust, learn, connect with peers, to increase her growth as an independent thinker and young woman and to be safe. The first semester of college was academically difficult for my daughter. She is a smart young woman and I knew in my heart she would turn this situation around. Her second semester she worked hard and her grades improved dramatically. I would receive text messages with snapshots of test grades. My daughter was proud of her accomplishment the second semester and I was proud of her as well. She looked towards the summer and her sophomore year in the fall. When she decided to confide in me, she started to talk about an event in the news that bothered her and how some situations you have control, and others you do not. There are some people who have so much going for them and they take it for granted. When my daughter is expressing her opinion with emotion I know that there is a reason. And then . . . she said . . . "I was dated raped!" The date rape was by a friend during her first semester of school. My heart sank. I could feel my eyes getting watery. I let her talk as much as she wanted to and I listened. Days after my daughter told me she was date raped I would cry at the smallest things and with no warning. I remembered back to my sweet innocent baby girl and how I wanted her to be safe at day care. I remembered her little face in the school bus window on her first day of kindergarten. I wanted to throw up at the thought of what had happened! I knew I needed to obtain resources for help so I sought out the assistance from the college. I needed to educate myself so I could support my daughter. I am so appreciative for the services

CONNSACS has provided me. What my daughter experienced is a horrific crime against her as a person. It is a violation of her as a human being. My daughter needs to be treated with dignity and respect. I am proud of her courage and strength to continue at the college. My daughter is my hero!

College campuses need to be safe! They need to be safe to walk around day or night and in any location. Dorms need to be safe with ways to seek help in a crisis. There needs to be locations where you can safely speak to someone where you are not judged and there is not a stigma of being there. College campuses need resources that are easy to obtain and not bogged down by red tape or the inability to locate them quickly. Grants should be obtained to train staff annually on this crime. Connect Colleges should work closely together to share information of resources that would protect our campuses across the state. Involve the students as well; they have ideas and a voice! Connecticut needs to set the example for the nation on keeping college campuses SAFE!

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that I am **in support of HB 5029**, An Act Concerning Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence On Campus. I want to thank the committee members for hearing my testimony.